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RE : Visit of G. at KUTSENKO's house in LIEGE on 18 March 1963

DATE : 28 Mar 1963

1. After three previous failures in the last two months G. succeeded finally to meet KUTSENKO Boris at his address in LEEGE on 18 Mar 1963, at 15.00 hrs. Prior to that, G. tried again to get KASANTSEV Eugene and phoned him. There was no answer and G went to his house. No one answered again and G. went to KUTSENKO'S address. KUTSENKO was at home, seemed to be glad to see G. and asked him to enter. Together with KUTSENKO was another Soviet student who pretended this time to be KUFAROV. When G wondered whether new KUFAROV was the same one he met before he was assured that same and real KUFAROV was now talking to him. G was asked to have some coffee and choclate and he gladly let himself be treated by his hosts. They started to talk about students' life in LOUVAIN and then switched over to politics. Their discussion lasted 4 hours and KUTSENKO invited G again. He also promided to get next time KAZANTSEV. When G comes again KUTSENKO will simply phone KAZANTSEV and get him to his houde.

- After G told his hosts how much he had to pay for his studies KUTSENKO began to describe all the blessings bestowed upon Soviet student by the government. They have to pay nothing, authorities are taking care of everything in the Soviet Union aso. G explained to them how a capitalist system worked in this field and stressed the freedom of Western students which is absolutely worthwhile of the money they had to pay. It was G's impression that both were not actually convinced in what they were presenting to him but did it more ad some sort of propagandistic obligation. From students they turned to problems of work in the Soviet Union in general and again both emphasized in a primitive propagandistic manner the benefits of the principle " From everybody according to his abilities and to everybody according to his needs". G replied that the principle as such was not too bad but he wondered how it worked in practice, and above all , for example, who was supposed to determine both: abilities and needs. The hosts seemed then to be not interested in further elaboration on this question and switched over to the superiority of socialism in the field of production and productivity.
- ** KUTSENKO who continued to be the main speaker, pointed to the fact that the rate of growth of Soviet economy was since many years higher than that of the USA and repeated the old argument that by 1970 the Soviet Union will outstrip the United states in all fields of industrial production.

 Gremarked that he heard these statements many times are but somehow as far as he could remember, they were also very often thanged and always lagged behind the predictions.

 He pointed also to the living standard of Soviet workers and compare it with that in the West. KUTSENKO parred it with the prediction of workers in the West. G wondered if there was greater exploitation of the working class in the Soviet Union.

KUTSENKO'S friend began to argue that this was not the case in the Soviet Union since there was no private ownership under socialism and all belonged to the working class. The latter decides about everything.

- 4. G asked whether the Soviet working class, having such a low living standard, decided also about Soviet aid to under-dveloped contries. KUTSENKO assured him that the Soviet peoples were glad to help those countries and felt happy themselves. G asked then about strikes in the Seviet Union.
 KUTSENKO flushed and replied that this was not true. There were no strikes in the Soviet Union and all informations in the Belgian press were false. G wondered if in this case KUTSENKO was not following too blindly the official line. He pointed to the destalinisation which admitted all the Stalinist horrors first after they were officially approved by the party. Before that everybody denied Stalinist tdrror though they all knew it existed. KUTSENKO replied that in spite of all his mistakes Stalin was a great man, he built the socialism, and introduced the personality cult only in his old days when he became ill. G pointed out to the speech of KHRUSBCHEV himself at the XXth Congress which seemed to contradict what KUTSENKO was saying. G also began to elaborate on the fact that KHRUSHCHEV was also responsible for Stalin's sins. Finally he described the present system in the Kremlin as neo-stalinism. KUTSENKO and his friend restricted themselves only to formal denials that this was not so and the destalinization introduced by Nikita Sergeevich was genuine.
- 5. On the subject of Russo-Chinese relations KUTSENKO and his friend commented that the so called conflict had been greatly exaggerated in the West. This was actually no conflict but just brotherly quarrel in the socialist family.

 G ,peinting to the demand for VLADIVOSTOK by Chinese, expressed his doubts as to the nature of the socialist family.

 KUTSENKO began to laugh and replied only that VLADIVOSTOK was Russian. His friend joined in laughing and this was their answer.
- 6. Then KUSNETSOV started to dwell upon impossibility of wars among socialist countries, necessity to see all conflicts in the socialist block in this perspective, aso. His main argument was that all wars had their economic basis and since there could be no such in a socialist block, ipso facto, no war were possible among socilaist countries. There was nothing like an ideological war, all wars are economic. G asked KUTSENKO to specify the economic elements of the Soviet-Americam conflict. KUTSENKO replied that actually his theories of war referred to the past ones and that, of course, the Soviet-American rivalry was an edeological one. He (KUTSENKO) did not say anything when G pointed out his contradictory statements.
- 7. KUTSENKO denied that religion in the poviet Union was oppressed. He mentioned that as anyoung boyche went himself to

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church in LENINGRAD. Then he saw all the nonsense about religion, and so did also many other people.

Thre was ,however, no physical pressure to keep people from churches.

8. G's impression was that KUTSENKO and his friend were mainly interested in learning his views on different problems, and listened intensively to him. They stuck to officila party line but their counter-arguments were rather halfhearted and formal.

In cases where they lacked any arguments at all they simply remained silent and switched then to another subject.

In G's opinion KUTSENKO and his friend, both are convinced communists, mainly motivated by opportunistic reasons and only then by ideological ones.

G plans to visit KUTSENKO in the near future again and wants to discuss with him , among other things, the nationalities problem in the Soviet Union.